



## Little League Softball® and USA Softball Rules, Regulation and Operations Comparison

	Little League Softball®	USA Softball
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### Age Determination Date

	December 31/January 1	Same
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### Age Structure

	<b>Tee-Ball:</b> Ages 4-5 (6/7 local option)	
	<b>Minor League:</b> 7-11 (5 and 6-year-olds with one year of Tee Ball may play Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch); *Option for Coach, Machine, and/or Player Pitch	10U (8-10 years old)
	<b>Major League:</b> 9-12	12U
	<b>Junior:</b> 12-14	14U
	<b>Senior:</b> 13-16	16U

### Playing Field

Base Lines	60 feet ( <b>Tee Ball:</b> may be 50 feet)	60 feet
Pitching Distance	<b>Tee Ball/Minor:</b> 35 feet	<b>10U:</b> Same
	<b>Major:</b> 40 feet	<b>12U:</b> Same
	<b>Junior/Senior:</b> 43 feet	<b>14U and above:</b> Same
Fence Distance	180-200 feet	<b>10U:</b> 175-225 feet
		<b>12U-16U:</b> 200-225 feet
On-Deck Position	<b>Minor/Major:</b> Not Permitted	Permitted
	<b>Junior/Senior:</b> Permitted	

### Equipment

Cleats	<b>Minor/Major:</b> Metal cleats are not permitted <b>Junior/Senior:</b> Metal Permitted	<b>12U and below:</b> Same <b>14U and above:</b> Same	
Ball	<b>Minor:</b> 11" <b>Major/Junior/Senior:</b> 12"	<b>10U:</b> Same <b>12U-16U:</b> Same	
Bats	1.20 BPF	ASA or USA Softball certification (2004)	
	Length	<b>Majors and below:</b> No more than 33 inches <b>Junior/Senior:</b> No more than 34 inches	No more than 34 inches
	Weight	No maximum	No more than 38 oz.
Batter Helmet	Face mask optional	Face mask required	
Catcher's Mask	Mask must have a dangling throat protector	Mask must have throat protector (extended wire frame OR dangling throat protector)	
Double First Base	Optional	Required	

### The Game

Innings	<b>Minor/Major:</b> 6 innings <b>Junior/Senior:</b> 7 innings	<b>10U and above:</b> 7 innings
Run Rule	<b>Minor/Major:</b> 15 after 3; 10 after 4 <b>Junior/Senior:</b> 15 after 4; 10 after 5	15 after 3; 12 after 4; 8 after 5
Time Limit	Local option (1.45 or 2 hours)	Optional: 1 hour 20 min
Players to Start/End Game	Must have 9 players	May start/end game with 8; take an out

Substitutions	<p><b>Minor/Major/Junior Regular Season &amp; Tournament:</b> Starters and substitutes may re-enter the game after Mandatory Play has been met.</p> <p><b>Senior League Regular Season:</b> Starters and substitutes may re-enter the game after MP has been met.</p> <p><b>Senior League Tournament:</b> Starters may re-enter game once; A substitute may not re-enter the game once removed</p>	Starters & substitutes may re-enter
Mandatory Play	<p>6 outs and 1 at-bat</p> <p><b>Minor/Major/Junior Tournament:</b> 12 or less players, 1 at-bat and 6 consecutive outs; 13 or more, 1 at-bat</p> <p><b>Senior Tournament:</b> No Mandatory Play</p>	None

## Pitching

Intentional Walk	May inform the umpire of intentional walk	Must throw 4 balls
Illegal Pitch	<p>Only pivot foot must start on pitcher's plate (Aligns with NFHS and WBSC)</p> <p>No crow hop</p> <p>No leaping</p>	<p>Same</p> <p>Same</p> <p>Same</p>
Penalty for IP	<b>All Divisions:</b> A ball on the batter	Same
Pitching Restrictions	<p><b>Minor/Major:</b> 6 innings or less, no rest required; 7 innings or more, one day rest required; Max of 12 innings in a day</p> <p><b>Junior/Senior:</b> No restrictions</p>	None

## Batting

Bunt	<b>Minors/Majors/Junior/Senior:</b> Permitted	Same
Bunt Attempt	Holding bat in strike zone; Must be pulled back for a ball (aligns with NFHS and NCAA)	Must move bat towards ball for strike call
Add. Batting Positions	Continuous Batting Order	EP
Extra Positions	<b>Senior:</b> DH	DP/Flex
Drop 3rd Strike	<p><b>Minors:</b> Not Permitted - batter is out</p> <p><b>Major/Intermediate/Junior/Senior:</b> Permitted</p>	<b>10U and above:</b> Same

## Base Running

Sliding	<p><b>Minor/Major:</b> No head first slide when advancing</p> <p><b>Junior/Senior:</b> Head first slide allowed</p>	Head first slide allowed
Stealing	<p><b>Minor:</b> May leave when ball crosses the plate</p> <p><b>Major/Junior/Senior:</b> May leave at release</p>	<p><b>10U:</b> May leave at pitcher's release unless local league rule</p> <p><b>12U and above:</b> Same</p>
Penalty for leaving early	Baserunner called out	Same
Courtesy Runner	Courtesy runner permitted for pitcher and/or catcher with 2 out during the Regular Season	Courtesy runner permitted for pitcher and/or catcher
Pinch Runner	<b>Special Pinch Runner:</b> Twice per game and once an inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a SPR for any offensive player.	Pinch runner for any offensive player

\* Coach Pitch is a Division of the Minor Division that allows the Manager or Coach to pitch to their players while on defense to help teach the game of softball and keeps the game moving. A Coach Pitch division would NOT be considered a competitive Minor Division.

## Operations and Administration

	Little League Softball®	USA Softball
<b>Chartering</b>		
Charter/Registration Fee	\$10 per team in all divisions	\$12.00 per player (\$250 deductible)* 24.50 per player (\$125 deductible)* \$19.00/player with photo (\$250 deduct.)* \$30.50/player with photo (\$125 deduct.)*
Accident Insurance	<b>Majors and below:</b> \$21-29 per team (\$50 deduct.) <b>Juniors/Seniors:</b> \$55-58 per team (\$50 deduct.)	Included in registration fee
Liability Insurance	\$278 flat-\$39 per team (depending on # of teams)	Included in registration fee
Directors & Officers	Included with Liability Insurance	Additional \$495
Crime Insurance	Additional \$250	Additional \$260
Sample 7 Team League	<b>\$674</b>	
Background Checks	125 Free background checks per league; additional background checks available for nominal fee	\$7-\$11 unless purchased through ACE Certification / Protect Youth Sports
Safety/Risk Management	ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program)	Safety and Concussion Awareness
Boundaries	Boundary Map required	Boundaries not required
<b>Resources</b>		
Free Coach Resources	<b>Little League University:</b> Online articles, skills, drills and instructional videos for all levels Coach's Box eNewsletter (monthly) Divisional Coaching Booklets PCA Double Goal Coach course <b>ONE Softball:</b> Videos and articles for player development and guidance	Candrea on Coaching monthly article  Balls and Strikes online magazine (4 per yr.)  Play Positive videos
Coach Resources	Coach Clinics (in-person)	<b>ACE Certification:</b> \$25 for Level 1; \$20 for all other levels  USA Softball National Coaching School
League Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Free information and tutorials for league officials Local and Regional Administrative Clinics <b>League Resource Guide:</b> Includes sample fliers, promotion ideas and league operation suggestions Online Chartering and Registration The Little League Notebook eNewsletter (monthly)	Registration Guide Inside Pitch eNewsletter (monthly)
Umpire Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Articles and video on umpire rotations, rules, interpretations, etc. Umpire Registry Fairball eNewsletter Umpire Clinics and Schools	Online umpire resources with registration   National umpire school
Parent Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Articles and tips for parents <b>Positive Coaching Alliance:</b> Parent Course The Parent Connection eNewsletter	
Player Resource	<b>The Little League Magazine:</b> Annual publication with MLB	
Playing Rules	Printed and App	Same

## Initiatives

Grants/Funds	<p><b>Grow the Game Grants:</b> Little League Grant awards up to \$20,000; Over \$1 million given annually</p> <p><b>Honda Grants:</b> Available to Little League® programs</p> <p><b>T-Mobile Call-Up Grant Program:</b> Helps families in need by covering registration fees</p>	<b>MUSCO Bright Light Award:</b> 1 - \$2,000 tournament fee credit
Player Initiative	<b>Little League Softball® Days:</b> Game days with colleges and universities across the country	
Additional Play	<p>Special Game Tournaments</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> Teams must meet min. insurance requirements</p>	<p>Tournaments</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$100-\$1000 entry fee per team</p>
Awards Program	Awards for numerous league official positions	Umpire awards
International	<p>International Coach and Player Clinics</p> <p>Work with Federations to grow the grassroots worldwide</p>	

## Post-Season Tournament

Post-Season Play	<p><b>8-10 &amp; 9-11:</b> State Level; Region Invitationals</p> <p><b>Majors/Junior/Senior:</b> End in a World Series with all games broadcast on ESPN family networks. More than 130 Regional and WS games televised.</p>	<b>10U-16U:</b> End in a National Tournament
Participation	US and International; Over 25 countries	United States
Entry Fee	\$200 per team	\$100-\$800 per Tournament level
League Travel	\$1 per mile at the State level and beyond	None
Reimbursement	for 150+ miles per one roundtrip	
Nationals/WS Travel	<b>Regional champions:</b> All team expenses paid, including travel, lodging, food, uniforms, etc.	Discounts available from certain sponsors

\* USA Player registration includes Accident and Liability insurance within the fee.